

Appl. No. 09/920,080  
Amdt. dated [insert date]  
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented)      A flexible shelter structure comprising:  
an elongated flexible pole under tension in a generally arcuate shape and having a first end and a second end, said first and said second end each in contact with the ground;  
a plurality of flexible spars each having a first end and a second end, each said spar flexibly connected to said pole at a point on said pole intermediate said first and said second end of said pole, and at a point on said spar intermediate said first and said second end of said spar, each said spar crossing said pole at an angle and being spaced apart relative to other spars along the length of said pole, said first and said second end of each said spar floating and not in contact with the ground, said spars being under tension in a generally arcuate shape with a radius of curvature greater than that of said elongated flexible pole, said pole and said spars thereby forming a flexible frame structure; and  
a membrane connected to said flexible frame structure and defining a substantially sheltered space thereunder, said sheltered space having a volume dependent on said radius of curvature of said spars.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said membrane tensions said pole and said spars.

Claim 4 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said spars cross said elongated flexible pole at a substantially transverse angle.

Claim 5 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said spars are directly connected to said elongated flexible pole.

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Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1  
wherein said spars are pre-bent in a selected shape.

Claims 8-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1  
including a tensioning means ~~is~~ in communication with said elongated flexible pole to place said  
pole under tension to cause said pole to flex in said substantially arcuate shape.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended)      The flexible shelter structure of claim ~~2~~ 1  
wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and  
said spars.

Claim 14 (currently amended)      The flexible shelter structure of claim ~~2~~ 1  
wherein said membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure intermediate said pole and  
said spars, and wherein a second membrane is connected to said flexible frame structure over  
said pole and said spars, thereby forming a space between said membrane and said second  
membrane.

Claim 15 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1  
wherein said elongated flexible pole comprises a plurality of interconnected pole segments.

Claims 16-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended)      The flexible frame structure of claim ~~16~~ 1  
wherein one or more of said spars are indirectly connected to said pole.

Claims 20-28 (canceled)

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Claim 29 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 including a guy line having a first end connected to a said spar, and a second end connected to the ground, said guy line maintaining said flexible frame structure in a substantially upright position.

Claim 30 (previously presented)      The flexible shelter structure of claim 1 wherein said membrane is connected to said spars, extends substantially to the ground, and maintains said flexible frame structure in a substantially upright position.